

TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR.

The isothermal lines of chart No. II illustrate the general distribution of the temperature of the air for the month. By reference to the table on the left side of the chart it will be seen that the temperature of the month has been considerably above the mean in New England, and below the mean from the South Atlantic States to the Lower Lakes and westward. The greatest deviation occurs in Colorado and Wyoming, where the temperature is about seven degrees below the mean.

Minimum and Maximum Temperatures, respectively:—*Maine*—Mechanics' Falls, -4° and 46° ; Gardiner, 5° , 53° ; Eastport, 8° , 52° . *New Hampshire*—Mt. Washington, -15° , 34° ; Auburn, -2° , 54° ; *Vermont*—Newport, -14° , 49° ; Burlington, 6° , 56° . *Massachusetts*—Billerica, -1° , 40° ; Springfield, 8° , 60° ; Boston, 10° , 59° . *Rhode Island*—Newport, 14° , 56° . *Connecticut*—Mystic, 0° , 53° ; New London, 12° , 57° . *New York*—Brookhaven, -5° , 58° ; Plattsburg Barracks, -1° , 45° ; New York City, 12° , 58° ; Rochester, 8° , 52° ; Buffalo, 6° , 49° ; Wappinger's Falls, 12° , 60° . *New Jersey*—Somerville, 7° , 59° ; Atco, 13° , 64° . *Pennsylvania*—Tarentum, -12° , 46° ; Hulmeville, 9° , 64° ; Philadelphia, 13° , 62° ; Pittsburgh, 4° , 52° . *Delaware*—Dover, 12° , 60° ; Wilmington, 13° , 67° . *Maryland*—Cumberland, 4° , 48° ; New Market, 7° , 60° ; Baltimore, 15° , 61° . *District of Columbia*—Washington, 13° , 60° . *Virginia*—Wytheville, 5° , 52° ; Capeville, 26° , 64° ; Lynchburg, 17° , 52° . *West Virginia*—Helvetia, -2° , 52° ; Morgantown, 7° , 54° . *North Carolina*—Franklin, 0° , 56° ; Weldon, 21° , 70° . *South Carolina*—Aiken, 17° , 67° ; Charleston, 25° , 67° . *Georgia*—Gainesville, 13° , 68° ; Savannah, 24° , 73° ; St. Mary's, 23° , 74° . *Florida*—Mayport, 26° , 75° ; Key West, 55° , 79° ; St. Marks, 25° , 71° . *Alabama*—Green Springs, 17° , 68° ; Montgomery, 22° , 70° . *Mississippi*—Vicksburg, 20° , 72° . *Louisiana*—New Orleans, 27° , 70° ; Point Pleasant, 23° , 73° . *Texas*—Fredericksburg, 9° , 81° ; Jacksboro', 10° , 72° ; Corsicana, 18° , 73° ; Galveston, 29° , 71° . *Ohio*—Bellevfontaine, -13° , 44° ; Columbus, -7° , 48° ; Cincinnati, -1° , 52° . *Kentucky*—Danville, -3° , 50° ; Louisville, 4° , 53° ; Bowling Green, -2° , 57° . *Tennessee*—Austin, -2° , 50° ; Memphis, 11° , 63° ; Knoxville, 6° , 57° . *Arkansas*—Judsonia, 9° , 71° . *Michigan*—Detroit, -4° , 42° ; Alpena, 9° , 38° ; Grand Haven, 12° , 42° ; Marquette, 2° , 40° . *Indiana*—Spiceland, -14° , 39° ; Indianapolis, -12° , 48° ; St. Meinrad, 10° , 56° . *Illinois*—Elmira, -23° , 44° ; Anna, -4° , 60° ; Chicago, -9° , 46° ; Cairo, 4° , 60° . *Missouri*—Ashley, -17° , 55° ; Corning, -13° , 62° ; St. Louis, -3° , 56° . *Kansas*—Fort Hays, -13° , 68° ; Independence, -4° , 60° ; Dodge City, -3° , 65° . *Wisconsin*—Neillsville, -18° , 41° ; Milwaukee, -8° , 44° ; Madison, -8° , 39° . *Iowa*—Byron, -17° , 46° ; Des Moines, -10° , 52° ; Keokuk, -13° , 52° ; Ames, -15° , 35° . *Nebraska*—Plattsmouth, -11° , 56° ; Omaha, -8° , 59° ; Ft. McPherson, -20° , 70° . *Indian Territory*—Fort Gibson, 3° , 63° ; Ft. Sill, 10° , 67° . *Minnesota*—Ft. Snelling, -12° , 38° ; Duluth, -14° , 38° ; Breckenridge, -17° , 40° . *Dakota*—Morriston, -12° , 45° ; Bismarck, -20° , 48° ; Pembina, -22° , 41° ; Yankton, -11° , 55° ; Deadwood, -25° , 54° . *Colorado*—Colorado Springs, -15° , 59° ; Denver, -12° , 62° ; Ft. Garland, -23° , 51° . *Wyoming Territory*—Cheyenne, -12° , 56° ; Ft. Fred. Steele, -28° , 54° . *Utah*—Salt Lake City, 8° , 56° . *Nevada*—Winnebucca, -6° , 65° . *California*—San Francisco, 40° , 68° ; Sacramento, 23° , 66° ; Red Bluff, 25° , 71° ; Campo, 7° , 80° . *New Mexico*—Santa Fe, 0° , 65° ; Ft. Union, -11° , 61° . *Idaho*—Boise City, 7° , 53° . *Montana*—Virginia City, -15° , 46° .

Ranges of Temperatures.—The monthly ranges will appear from an examination of the minima and maxima just given. Greatest daily ranges vary in New England from 18° at Wood's Holl to 33° at Burlington; Middle Atlantic States, 19° at Lynchburg to 29° at Cape Henry; South Atlantic States, 23° at Savannah and Charleston to 30° at Jacksonville; Gulf States, 14° at Key West to 33° at Montgomery and 35° at Corsicana; Ohio valley and Tennessee, 20° at Louisville to 29° at Nashville; Lake Region, 15° at Grand Haven and Buffalo to 29° at Milwaukee; the Northwest 20° at Dubuque and Davenport to 43° at North Platte; Rocky Mountains, 39° at Colorado Springs to 47° at Santa Fe; Western Plateau, 24° at Salt Lake to 43° at Winnemucca; California, 16° at San Francisco to 23° at Visalia and 54° at Campo.

Frost has been quite general over the northern sections of the country and interior of the Southern States; at stations along the Gulf and South Atlantic coasts frosts have occurred from five to fifteen days.

Ice formed in the Gulf and South Atlantic States and on the Pacific coast as follows:—Denison, Tex., 14th; Laredo, Tex., (16th first,) 25th, 26th, 27th; Montgomery, 19th, 28th; St. Marks, 19th, 28th; Atlanta, Ga., 20th, 26th; Tybee Island, Ga., (28th, 1 inch, first,) 28th, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; Savannah, 23rd, $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th; Princeton, Cal., 14th, (16th to 25th, $\frac{1}{2}$ in.) 26th, $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 27th, $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 29th, $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; Green Springs, Ala., 16th to 18th; Mayport, Fla., 6th, $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; Okahumpka, Fla., 28th, $\frac{3}{8}$ in.; Melissa, Tex., 10th, $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 23rd, 1 in., 24th, creeks frozen over, 31st, 3 in.; Sacramento, Cal., 8th, 14th to 20th, 22nd, 26th, (27th, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.,) 29th, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; Eagle Pass, Tex., 15th, 16th, 18th, 21st, 25th, 26th; Point Pleasant, La., 16th to 18th, 22nd to 28th; Brookhaven, Miss., 3rd, 4th, 5th, 15th to 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th to 28th; Los Angeles, Cal., 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 25th; Visalia, Cal., 27th $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Ground Frozen.—The following items will serve to show the occurrence of frost in ground in the same districts: Denison, Tex., 16th; Savannah, 28th, 29th; Green Springs, Ala., 16th to 18th, 22d to 25th, 27th, 28th; Thomasville, Ga., 28th; Melissa, Tex., 15th; Brookhaven, Miss., 15th to 18th, (24th, two in.)

PRECIPITATION.

On chart No. III is illustrated the general distribution of the precipitation for the month. On the left side is a table giving the average precipitation for December, which shows a decided excess in the northeast districts and the East Gulf States, and a large deficiency on the Pacific coast.